

## Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

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APPROVED BY NEA:ALATHERTON,JR.

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 235105

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CE

SUBJECT: SRI LANKA AMBASSADOR KANAKARATNE'S CALL ON  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON

1. AT HIS REQUEST SRI LANKA AMBASSADOR KANAKARATNE CALLED  
ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON SEPTEMBER 17 TO REVIEW  
CEYLONese ROLE IN COLOMBO NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT CONFERENCE  
(NAC). DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY BAKER OF IO WAS ALSO  
PRESENT.

2. KANAKARATNE CLAIMED THAT U.S. PRESS COVERAGE OF SUMMIT  
ON BALANCE HAD BEEN "UNFRIENDLY" WITH SEVERAL SRI LANKA  
POSITIONS INTERPRETED AS BEING DIRECTED AGAINST THE UNITED  
STATES. AMBASSADOR THEREFORE WANTED TO PRESENT THE GSL'S  
VIEWS ON THE CONFERENCE AND ON SRI LANKA'S ROLE IN PARTICULAR,  
WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE ISSUES WHICH, AT VARIOUS  
LEVELS, INCLUDING THE SECRETARY, HAD BEEN RAISED WITH HIM  
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PRIOR TO THE CONFERENCE AS BEING OF KEY INTEREST TO THE

U.S. THESE WERE IDENTIFIED AS: KOREA, PUERTO RICO,  
ISRAELI EXCLUSION FROM THE UN, AND THE PANAMA CANAL.

3. KOREA - KANAKARATNE SAID THAT RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE  
NAC WAS NOT TO THE GSL'S LIKING. SRI LANKA DID NOT CARE  
FOR THE "EMOTIONAL LANGUAGE" IN WHICH IT WAS COINED NOR

COULD THE CEYLONESE CONCUR WITH ITS LACK OF BALANCE IN  
WHICH ALL PROBLEMS WERE ATTRIBUTED TO THE SOUTH AND NONE  
TO THE NORTH. KANAKARATNE SAID THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WAS  
"ESPECIALLY KEEN" THAT HE SHOULD DRAW OUR ATTENTION TO  
SRI LANKA'S RESERVATION ON THE KOREAN LANGUAGE, WHILE ALSO  
NOTING THAT TOTAL OF 24 RESERVATIONS, ORAL AND WRITTEN,  
HAVE BEEN RECORDED. RESPONDING TO COMMENT BY BAKER ON  
CONFUSED HANDLING OF KOREAN RESOLUTION AT COLOMBO,  
KANAKARATNE POINTED TO PRESSURE OF TIME ON SRI LANKA  
CHAIRMAN FELIX BANDARANAIKE AND EXTREMELY HARD LINE TAKEN  
BY "NORTH KOREAN - CUBAN AXIS." ATHERTON NOTED THAT U.S.  
HAD FOLLOWED SUMMIT VERY CLOSELY BUT FOUND IT INCONGRUOUS  
THAT CONSENSUS COULD BE DECLARED ON KOREA DESPITE SO MANY  
RESERVATIONS. HE ADDED THAT FROM OUR PERSPECTIVE QUESTION  
OF RESERVATIONS IS VERY IMPORTANT AND THAT THEY SHOULD BE  
RECORDED IN THE FINAL DOCUMENTS CIRCULATED BY SRI LANKA  
AT THE U.N. KANAKARATNE STATED THAT HE BELIEVED THEY  
WOULD BE.

4. ON PUERTO RICO, KANAKARATNE NOTED THAT SRI LANKA WAS  
ONE OF 17 NATIONS RESERVING ON THE PUERTO RICAN RESOLUTION  
ADOPTED BY THE NAC ON THE GROUNDS THAT IT WAS CONTRADIC-  
TORY TO CALL FOR BOTH SELF-DETERMINATION AND INDEPENDENCE.

5. KANAKARATNE HAD LITTLE TO SAY ON ISRAELI EXCLUSION  
ISSUE OTHER THAN STATING IMPRESSION THAT ATMOSPHERE ON  
THIS QUESTION WAS MUCH MORE MUTED THAN AT EARLIER MEET-  
INGS. HE ATTRIBUTED THIS TO ARAB PREOCCUPATION WITH  
SAHARAN QUESTION. ON OTHER HAND, PANAMA ATTRACTED VERY  
LITTLE ATTENTION AT ALL WITH ALMOST ALL STATES AT COLOMBO  
TAKING THEIR LEAD FROM PANAMANIAN DELEGATION.

6. ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON EXPRESSED U.S. APPRECI-  
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ATION FOR SRI LANKA'S STAND ON KOREA AND PUERTO RICO AND  
STRESSED U.S. AWARENESS OF SRI LANKA'S EFFORTS TO KEEP  
NAC ON PRODUCTIVE COURSE, NOTING THAT GSL HAD DONE WHAT  
IT SAID IT WOULD DO TO RECONCILE DIFFERENCES. HOWEVER,  
AS INSTRUCTED BY THE SECRETARY, ATHERTON CONVEYED TO  
KANAKARATNE U.S. DISPLEASURE WITH HAVING BEEN SINGLED  
OUT BY PRIME MINISTER BANDARANAIKE IN REMARKS ON DIEGO  
GARCIA IN HER NAC INAUGURAL ADDRESS. AMBASSADOR TOOK

NOTE OF OUR VIEWS

..... INDICATING THAT PM'S LANGUAGE HAD BEEN CARE-  
FULLY DRAFYED IN EFFORT TO MAKE IT BALANCED BY INCLUDING  
REFERENCE TO OTHER NAVAL POWERS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN.

7. KANAKARATNE CONCLUDED MEETING WITH BRIEF REVIEW OF  
NON-ALIGNED COORDINATING COMMITTEE WHICH HE SAID SRI  
LANKA WILL CHAIR IN NEW YORK. IN GENERAL, HE THOUGHT

COMMITTEE WAS BALANCED ALTHOUGH ABSENCE OF EGYPT IS A DIS-  
APPOINTMENT TO CEYLONENE. KANAKARATNE SAID HE EXPECTS  
TO CHAIR NACC THIS FALL WHILE SRI LANKA PERM REP SERVES  
AS UNGA PRESIDENT. HABIB

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